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TITLE : AFTER-TREATMENT OF RECORDED IMAGE

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To impart gloss to the surface of a dye-receiving layer without damaging an obtained recorded image by a method wherein the surface of the dye-receiving layer with an image printed thereon by a thermal head is pressed by a pressing member having a smooth surface at a temperature lower than the glass transition temperature of a resin constituting the layer.

CONSTITUTION: An image is recorded on a thermal transfer recording sheet by use of a dye or dye precursor capable of being transferred through sublimation, evaporation or dissolution by heating. The sheet is then pressed by a pressing member having a smooth surface. The sheet is a thermal transfer recording sheet used in sublimation thermal transfer recording. A resin constituting a dye-receiving layer can be selected arbitrarily from those resins which can maintain in a stable state the dye or dye precursor transferred from a thermal transfer sheet. Preferably, the resin is selected appropriately from a polyester, polyurethane, etc. The temperature at which the pressing is conducted is set to be lower than T_g (glass transition temperature) of the resin. If the temperature is higher than T_g, the dye in a printed dye image is diffused, leading to the bleeding of the image, or is dispersed from the dye image surface.

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